

BOARD OF FINANCE

October 19, 2011

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance held at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, October 19, 2011.

Members Present: First Selectman Freda, Mr. Monico, Mr. Hallahan, Mr. Pieper, Ms. Vissicchio, Mr. Lianos, Mr. Kohlhepp

Also Present: Director of Finance Edward J. Swinkoski

The following materials were either mailed to the members prior to this meeting or distributed at this time.

1. Agenda – October 12, 2011
2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 21, 2011
3. September 30 , 2011 - Report of Budget
 - Report of Revenue
 - Special Funds
 - Board of Education Accounting

MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 21, 2011, Mr. Lianos moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Vissicchio.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Kohlhepp - Yes
	Lianos - Abstain		

OLD BUSINESS

Board members had a lengthy discussion about the proposed \$14 million bond package that was presented at a Special Town Meeting on September 27, 2011. The Director of Public Works and the Fire Chief were in attendance to answer questions.

The Director of Public Works stated that the construction of a new facility at 110 Elm Street would extend the life of our vehicles and keep them safe. During snow storms, it takes about 30 minutes to warm up and clean off vehicles to prepare them for operations. The Public Works department is on a schedule and needs to make sure the trucks are ready. They are also part of our emergency response.

Mr. Kohlhepp asked if other options were considered other than the construction of a new building.

The Director of Public Works said that the Town looked at other options such as leasing another building. A lease would cost around \$40,000/yr for a comparable building (7,000 sq. ft. @\$6.50 sq. ft). The purchase of an existing building would cost approximately \$750,000.

To construct a 6,000 square foot building at 110 Elm Street it would cost approximately \$700,000 and would be large enough to house Sanitation, Recycling, equipment and personnel who now operate out of Grasso Avenue.

Mr. Kohlhepp asked what the life expectancy of a new facility is. The Director of Public Works said that the new building would last 50+ years.

The Director of Public Works also discussed the condition of the town roads. The roads have been neglected over the years because of the lack of LoCIP funds. We have only been able to mill and pave 3 miles of road a year. There are 25 miles of roads that need to be paved.

The Fire Chief then discussed the proposal to renovate the town's four firehouses. He said Fire Headquarters and the three volunteer fire stations are 50 to 70 years old and have outlived their capacity. In many of the fire stations, the conditions are unsafe, deplorable and numerous. The cost to renovate/refurbish the fire stations would be approximately \$9.2 million. The Fire Chief encouraged board members and residents to visit the fire stations.

Mr. Kohlhepp said that during his visit he saw first hand the unsafe conditions. Mr. Kohlhepp said the firefighters are very dedicated to the community and will continue to serve the Town no matter what the outcome. He also complimented everyone involved in identifying the needs of each firehouse.

Mr. Hallahan also said that he visited 2 fire stations and said that the firefighters were extremely dedicated and were tolerant of less than ideal conditions.

Mr. Monico stated that the architect will be present at the November Board of Finance meeting to answer any questions that the board may have.

Mr. Hallahan wanted to know what the next step is in this process.

Mr. Freda said the Board of Finance will make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Selectmen will call a Town Meeting and a referendum date will be set.

Mr. Kohlhepp wanted to make sure that we include everything that is needed in this bond package.

Further discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORT OF BUDGET, REVENUE, SPECIAL FUNDS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Mr. Swinkoski referred to these reports stating that tax collections at the end of September were 53.3%. Mr. Swinkoski reviewed the expenditure report in detail. Further discussion followed. Mr. Kohlhepp then made a motion to accept the reports.

Seconded by, Ms. Vissicchio.

VOTE:	Freda - Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Kohlhepp - Yes
	Lianos - Yes		

CY 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE; FY 2012-2013 BUDGET-MAKING AND WORKSHOP SCHEDULES

These schedules were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Kohlhepp to adopt the CY 2012 Meeting Schedule, the FY 2012-13 Budget Making and Workshop Schedules, seconded by Mr. Freda.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Kohlhepp - Yes
	Lianos -Yes		

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion followed for approximately 5 minutes with residents asking questions and making recommendations.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Lianos moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM, seconded by Ms. Vissicchio.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Kohlhepp – Yes
	Lianos - Yes		